

Appln. No. 09/923,615
Amendment dated: March 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 27, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant takes note of paragraphs 1-27 of the Official Action. Applicant traverses paragraph 7 of the Official Action by noting that Houser does not suggest that "there may be at least one security object embedded on each page of a document" as the Examiner suggests. Col 7, lines 60-65 of Houser merely notes that "multiple security objects may be embedded in a single electronic document". There is no suggestion that such security objects be placed on different pages of the document. Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that having a separate unique barcode for each page of a document is not obvious in light of any of the cited art. As noted by the Federal Circuit in *W.L. Gore & Assoc. V. Garlock, Inc.* 721 F.2d 1540,1553, 220 USPQ 303, 312-12 (Fed. Cir. 1983) *cert. denied*, 469 U.S. 851 (1984):

To imbue one of ordinary skill in the art with knowledge of the invention in suit, when no prior art reference or references of record convey or suggest that knowledge, is to fall victim to the insidious effect of a hindsight syndrome wherein that which only the inventor taught is used against its teacher".

Applicant also traverses paragraph 11 of the Official Action by noting that, while it is true that Houser did not disclose the use of a document revision number, it

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would not have been obvious to base unique barcodes on, among other things, the document revision number. As the Examiner is well aware, 37 CFR 1.101 (c)(2) notes

"In rejecting claims for want of novelty or for obviousness, the Examiner must cite the best references at his or her command. When a reference is complex or shows or describes inventions other than that claimed by the Applicant, the particular part relied on must be designated as nearly as practicable. The pertinence of each reference, if not apparent, must be clearly explained and each rejected claim specified."

It is submitted that the Examiner has not provided the "best references at his or her command" per 37 CFR 1.104 (c)(2) as the Examiner has not provided any support for the assertion that using document revision numbers in the document digest or in the creation of a unique barcode is obvious. Applicant further asserts that the document revision number is used for identification purposes and not for "preserving this information" per the Examiner's assertion. Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.104(d)(2), Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide references or an affidavit to support her rejection of the subject matter of claims 4 and 13 on the basis of obviousness. None of the cited references disclose nor suggest using the document revision number as one of the bases by which the unique barcode may be generated.

Applicant has amended the claims to better define the invention. Given that the Examiner has not provided any proof that using the revision number as a basis

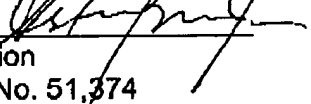
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for generating the unique barcode is obvious or non-novel, independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to include this feature. Claims 4 and 13 have been amended to remove this feature.

In view of the foregoing submissions and amendments, early favourable consideration of this application respectfully requested.

Dated this 24th day of March, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,
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